

## SUBUNIT c

Small farm agriculture is the primary use in Subunit c and the land is classified for agriculture. Forestry, grazing, and wildlife habitat are secondary uses. To the extent feasible, soils that can support agriculture will be used for agricultural homesteads. Two agricultural homesteads exist in this subunit, and eight more are proposed for sale on state land under 11 AAC 67.154. Land remaining in public ownership will be managed for grazing to supplement on-farm hayland, and for public use, including forestry and wildlife habitat and harvest.

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## Management Guidelines

### AGRICULTURE

**Consolidation of agricultural homesteads.** The Willow Subbasin Area Plan designated five agricultural homestead areas in the Kashwitna, eastern Little Willow Creek, and Iron Creek units. The Kashwitna Management Plan amends the Willow plan, consolidates the agricultural homesteads lands into one area, and reclassifies the original agricultural areas (See Map 6). The westernmost block of Little Willow Creek subunit b is not affected by this change.

The changes:

- cluster farm parcels to allow more efficient agricultural development,
- locate farm parcels on soil with good agricultural potential,
- decrease the extent of new roads needed,
- provide a consistent, wider habitat and recreation buffer along Little Willow Creek, and
- decrease the amount of farmland adjacent to wetlands.

Approximately 1,760 acres are classified for agriculture in Kashwitna Subunit c, and 3,530 acres in Iron Creek Subunit a. In addition, about 320 acres in Subunit c have already been sold as agricultural homesteads.

**Agricultural homestead offerings.** In the Kashwitna Unit, approximately 640 acres of land will be offered for sale as agricultural homesteads in the southern block of Subunit c during or after 1992 (see Map 6).<sup>1</sup> These sales cover the remaining agricultural land in the southern block. A few additional agricultural homesteads may be offered in the northern block of Subunit c (that part in T20N R4W sections 13 and 14). Land in Subunit c not sold as agricultural homesteads will be retained in public ownership and managed for access and public use.

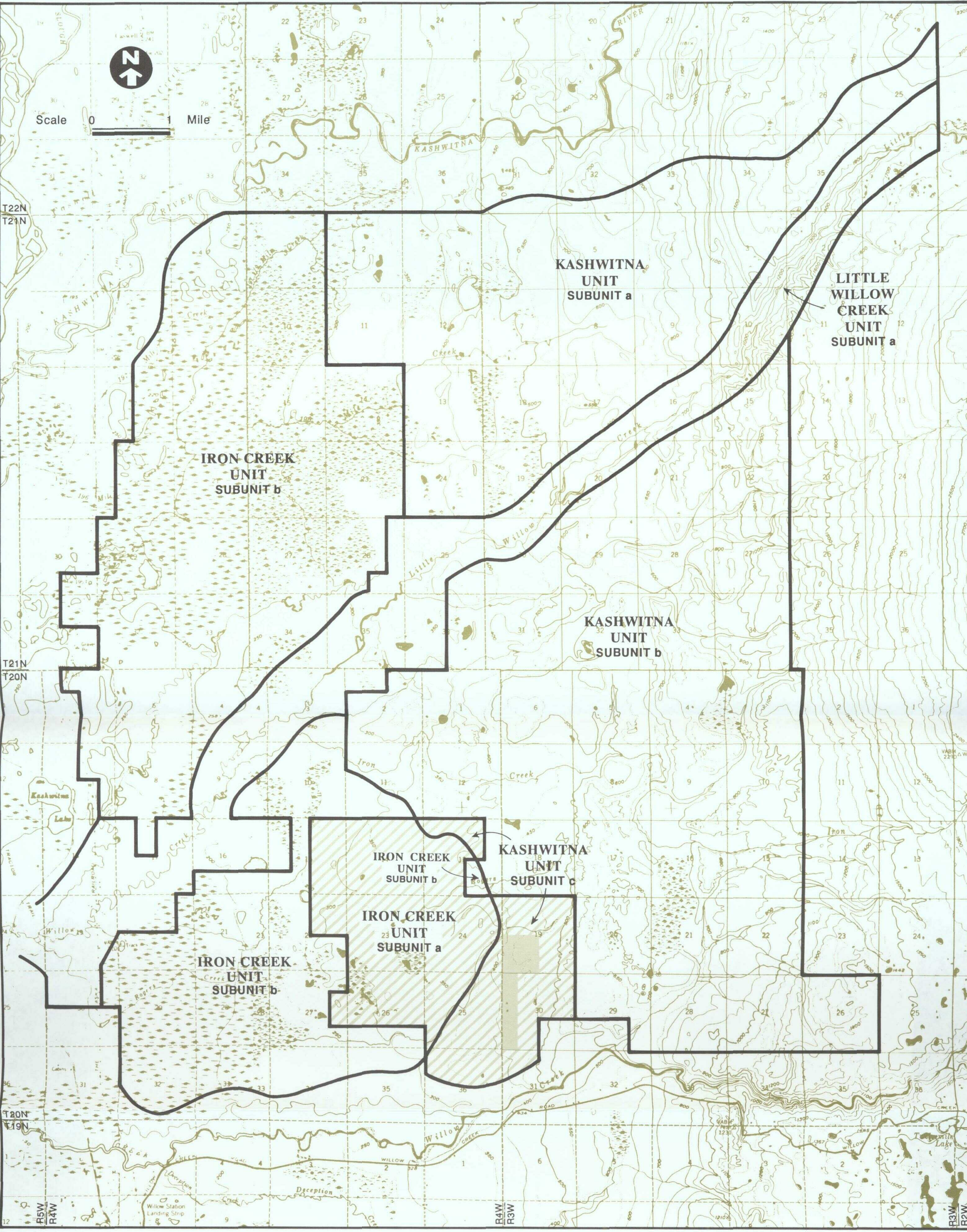
The proposed 1992 offering includes portions of up to eight parcels that total approximately 640 acres.

**Agricultural Homestead Conservation Plan.** Agricultural Homestead Conservation Plans are required under 11 AAC 67.155.

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<sup>1</sup>Under 11AAC 67.154, sales of agricultural homesteads convey land to private ownership subject to covenants that limit use to agriculture and other activities that support agricultural use.





# KASHWITNA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 6  
Agricultural Homestead Lands in the Kashwitna and Iron Creek Area

-  Existing Agricultural Homesteads
-  Land classified for future Agricultural Homestead offerings



**Multiple Use.** Individual farms are encouraged to promote ecological diversity and wildlife abundance by retaining vegetation suitable for wildlife food and cover in woodlots, hedgerows between fields, and along roadsides wherever possible. Where possible, woodlots should be situated to increase the effective size of stream and wetland buffers.

Agricultural homesteaders are encouraged to consider regulated public hunting as a potential tool for reducing crop damage by wildlife. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will provide technical assistance to any agricultural homesteader who wishes to permit regulated public hunting on agricultural lands.

#### **Agricultural Development Adjacent to Wetlands.**

1. Class I wetlands (see Appendix A, Glossary) and surrounding buffers should remain in public ownership whenever feasible. A Class I wetland buffer shall include all soils of Class V or worse agricultural capability (for example, Class V, VI, etc.) which lie adjacent to the wetland *or* a 100-foot strip adjacent to the wetland - whichever provides the greatest buffer width. However, maximum buffer width should be 300 feet. Restrictive use covenants and public access easements rather than public ownership may be used to protect Class I wetlands and associated buffers under conditions specified in the Restrictive Use Covenants and Public Access Easements guideline in the Wetlands section of this chapter.
2. Class II wetlands and certain surrounding lands (buffers) should remain in public ownership whenever feasible. A Class II wetland buffer shall include all soils of Class V or worse agricultural capability which lie adjacent to the wetland, *or* a 60-foot strip adjacent to the wetland - whichever provides the greatest buffer width. However, maximum buffer width should be 300 feet. Restrictive use covenants and public access easements rather than public ownership may be used to protect Class II wetlands and associated buffers under conditions specified in the Restrictive Use Covenants and Public Access Easements guideline in the Wetlands section of this chapter.
3. Class III wetlands may be sold as part of the farmstead. Draining, clearing, or other modifications must conform to the applicable permit requirements (for example, Army Corps of Engineers "Section 404" Permit).

**Stream Corridors.** Agricultural homesteads in the Kashwitna Unit will be designed to exclude anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Based on existing evidence, the streams in subunit c are narrow, traverse mostly wetlands, and have low recreation and fishery values. Agricultural homesteads will require a 75-foot building setback from the ordinary high water mark on streams in subunit c. A public access easement will also be established that extends 50 feet from the ordinary high water mark on these streams. The setback and easement are intended to retain public access to the streams and protect water quality. See also guidelines for Agricultural Development Adjacent to Wetlands in this section.

## **FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT**

**General.** Protection, maintenance, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat values shall be an important consideration in managing all public lands, regardless of the dominant land use. Development activities will be conducted in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on fish and wildlife habitat.

Two publications are highly recommended to both public and private land developers for practices that protect and enhance wildlife resources:

*A Synthesis and Evaluation of Fish and Wildlife Resources Information for the Willow and Talkeetna Sub-basins.* DFG, 1980.